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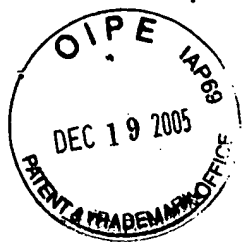
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Preliminary Amendment

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.8. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1.8 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Giroid, Christophe et al
SERIAL NO.: 10/510,519 ✓ Confirmation No.: 8870
FILING DATE: October 6, 2004
TITLE: Vitrification Furnace and Method With Dual Heating Means
EXAMINER: unassigned
ART UNIT: unassigned

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks / Arguments begin on page 4 of this paper.